

GOT THINGS DONE

Quality That Was Characteristic of Colonel Roosevelt.

Matter of the Removal of Old Railroad Station in Washington Recalled as a Proof of His Energy.

Since the death of Colonel Roosevelt, old-timers in Washington have been recalling many incidents illustrative of the tremendous vitality of the man, his determination to get things accomplished, and his unwillingness to let red tape interfere with the accomplishment of that which seemed necessary to be done. One of these incidents was recounted the other day by Col. William Boyce Thompson, chairman of the Roosevelt Memorial association. It was narrated with much appreciation by a congressman who didn't appreciate it so much when it occurred. It ran as follows:

The government was co-operating with the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio railroads in the project for a new union station—the present fine edifice. The site of the Pennsylvania's old station—now the mall near the White House—had been purchased by the government, and it was purposed to raze the buildings. But congress had been held late in a special session, and the members were anxious to get home, so it was decided to postpone the letting of bids for tearing down the buildings until congress reassembled the next fall. This duty naturally devolved on the committee on the District of Columbia, which has charge of government property in the district. Meantime a major of engineers was placed in charge, as custodian.

When the committee held its first meeting at the next session of congress, the matter of letting contracts for the razing of the old station was brought up.

"Why, gentlemen," declared an astonished representative, "there is nothing to tear down. I walked past there this morning, and there's nothing but the bare earth where the old station stood."

The committee sent post-haste for the custodian, and the chairman asked him sharply what had become of the building he had charge of.

"It has been razed and the material stored, sir," replied the major.

"By whose order?" queried the chairman, red in the face.

"By order of President Roosevelt, sir."

"Where in — did he get any authority to butt into our business?" exploded the chairman.

"Well, sir," said the major, "it is not for me to question the authority or the orders of my commander in chief, but to obey them. And I did, sir."

And congress decided to consider it a fact accomplished, and let it go at that.

A Bachelor's Complaint.

I cannot say that the quarrels of men and their wives ever made any great impression upon me, or had much tendency to strengthen me in those anti-social resolutions which I took up long ago upon more substantial considerations. What oftentimes offends me at the house of married persons where I visit, is an error of quite a different description—it is that they are too loving. Not too loving neither; that does not explain my meaning. Besides, why should that offend me? The very act of separating themselves from the rest of the world, to have the fuller enjoyment of each other's society, implies that they prefer one another to all the world. But what I complain of is, that they carry this preference so undisguisedly, they perk it up in the faces of us single people so shamelessly, you cannot be in their company a moment without being made to feel, by some indirect hint or open avowal that you are not the object of his preference.—Charles Lamb.

Da Vinci Thought of Tank.

Italy has just celebrated the fourth centenary of Leonardo da Vinci's death. His name has been often mentioned during the war and his prophetic genius recalled. It is known that he intended to build airplanes for war purposes, but it is now claimed also that he was the first to think of the tank. In his letters to B. Moro he speaks of armored cars which could shelter the occupants and drive right amongst the enemy's masses, slaying and shattering all opposition. It is unfortunate that more is not known of Leonardo's intentions, and of the way in which he proposed to propel his craft. Horses might possibly have been intended, for if a horse could carry less weight than the armored motor, protection in those days was more easily got than now. But it is certainly very singular to read that his cars were to charge ahead while the infantry would follow behind—for this is exactly what happened four hundred years after his death.

Wrong Diagnosis.

"That picturesque old gentleman sitting there under the tree must be at least an octogenarian," commented the motorist who had stopped for a drink of water.

"Say, look yar!" truculently returned Gabe Yaw of the Sandy Mush region. "You're talking about my Uncle Rip! He's eighty-two years old and can't take up for himself, but I want you to understand, by thunder, that he hain't no part nigger!"—Judge.

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